

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1732

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS ROME 9052

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT, SP

SUBJ: CUNHAL TO BERLINGUER: "CONGRATULATIONS, BUT..."

1. COMMUNIST DAILY, L'UNITA', TODAY CARRIES LISBON REPORT OF BITTERSWEET CONGRATULATIONS EXTENDED TO PCI BY CUNHAL, APPARENTLY SPEAKING IN COMBRA ON JUNE 23.
2. CUNHAL REPORTED TO HAVE SAID PCP GREETED JUNE 15 PCI ELECTORAL GAINS WITH "JOY AND SATISFACTION", BUT HE WAS CONSTRAINED TO ADD THAT "WHEN ON MARCH 11 OUR PARTY AND POPULAR FORCES SUCCEEDED IN MAKING THE REACTIONARY FORCES RETREAT, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE GREETINGS OF OUR ITALIAN COMRADES; INSTEAD WE GOT CRITICISMS AND CENSURE."
3. CUNHAL WENT ON TO CHIDE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS WHO PRO- NOUNCE THEMSELVES ON PORTUGUESE ISSUES WITHOUT MEASURING THE EFFECT OF THEIR REMARKS ON THE INTERNAL PORTUGUESE SITUATION. HE SAID PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS COULD HARDLY APPLAUD ANY INC- REASE IN PCI VOTE GARNERED THROUGH PCI'S STAND ON PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS.
4. L'UNITA' COMMENTS ON THIS REPORT BY OBSERVING THAT PCI IS IN FULL SOLIDARITY WITH THE FIGHT OF THE COMMUNISTS,

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OF THE LEFT, AND OF THE PORTUGUESE "MILITARY DEMOCRATS",

BUT THAT IT CANNOT REMAIN UNRESPONSIVE TO ITS READERS ON
MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE.VOLPE

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